Department of Labor and Industries

Employment Standards Program
Farm Labor Contracting Section
PO Box 44510
Olympia, WA 98504-4510
Phone 1-800-361-1891 or (360) 902-5315
www.lni.wa.gov/scs/workstandards/flc



## FARM LABOR CONTRACTOR CHECKLIST

The Department of Labor and Industries and landowners, business operators, associations, and workers of the special forest products industry have created the following list of questions to assist the industry in complying with Farm Labor Contractor laws. This list is intended to help an industry member determine if he or she is an unlicensed Farm Labor Contractor (FLC).

## WHO IS A FARM LABOR CONTRACTOR?

A Farm Labor Contractor is an individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation or government agency that, for a fee, recruits, solicits, employs, supplies, transports, or hires agricultural workers. Agricultural workers are employed for growing, producing or harvesting farm or nursery products, or in the forestation or reforestation of lands or other related activities. "Fee" includes anything that is received in exchange for FLC services.

## **HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?**

RCW 19.30.120, 19.30.150, and 19.30.160 state that any person who violates the farm labor contractor laws by making misrepresentations in an application for a license or does work in the capacity of a farm labor contractor without being licensed shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$5000, and/or receive civil penalties of \$1000 for each violation of the statute.

## HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

Industry members can use this checklist and business practice guideline as a tool to assess their scope of responsibility.

Place a checkmark in the box  $(\Box)$  corresponding to the provided response.

| Checklist Item  | Business Practice   |
|---|---|
| 1. Am I exempt from the Farm Labor Contractor (FLC)         | RCW 19.30.010(6): You may be exempt if you are a Department of  |
| laws?   | Employment Security employee, a common carrier or their full-   |
| ☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't Know  | time employee, a non-profit corporation, or a regular employee of   |
|   | an agricultural employer and not receiving a commission or fee.   |
|   | Contact L&I at the number listed above for assistance.  |
| 2. Am I a Farm Labor Contractor?                            | RCW 19.30.010(3): If you recruit, solicit, employ, supply,  |
| ☐Yes ☐No ☐Don't Know  | transport, or hire agricultural workers, you are a farm labor contractor (FLC).   |
| 3. If yes or don't know answer to number 2 above, obtain a  | RCW 19.30.020: Labor and Industries has several worksheets that   |
| farm labor contractor license from your local Labor and     | will help you determine if you are an FLC, and will provide the   |
| Industries service location.                                | documents necessary to get insurance, master business license, tax  |
| $\square$ Completed   | compliance certificates, and surety bond. The license costs \$35 or   |
|   | \$100, depending on activity being performed.   |
| 4. If yes to number 2 above, ensure each employee has       | RCW 19.30.110(7): It is mandatory that FLC's give a signed form   |
| signed an employment agreement form.                        | to each worker that explains the terms and conditions of  |
|   | employment and the worker's rights under the law. The L&I office has these documents in English and Spanish.                |
| 5. If yes to number 2 above and if transporting employees,  | WAC 296-310-040: The law requires minimum coverage for public   |
| obtain vehicle insurance.                                   | liability and property damage. Some landowners may require a  |
| $\square$ Completed   | higher level of insurance, so check with the landowner you are  |
|   | working with first before purchasing insurance.   |
| 6. If yes to number 2 above, keep payroll records for all   | RCW 19.30.110: The worker must be provided a written statement  |
| employees you hire.   | itemizing the total payment including descriptions of deductions,   |
| $\Box$ Completed  | hours worked, and rate of pay with every paycheck. Wages must meet the state minimum wage. Records must be maintained for 3 |
|   | vears.  |
| 7. If yes to number 2 above, report the employee hours, pay | All employers that have employees are required to report employee   |
| premiums for worker's compensation coverage, and pay        | hours quarterly, pay industrial insurance premiums on employees   |
| taxes on a quarterly basis.                                 | quarterly, and report earnings for the business on a quarterly basis.   |
| □Completed  | Your local L&I office can provide information and documents on  |
| 1   | these issues.   |